Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 IO-14

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R 111651Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2161

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR SUBJECT: CYRPUS

REF: STATE 002516, STATE 004064, ANKARA 0198, NICOSIA 042, ATHENS 0120

1. SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATION TODAY COVERING VARIOUS CURRENT ASPECTS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM, METAXAS (GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY) EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RECENT EVENTS WOULD NOT MAKE SITUATION WORSE AND AFTER REITERATING GREEK POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED AS CONFIRMED BY FOREIGN MINISTER (ATHENS 0120) ASKED WHETHER USG, WITHOUT INVOLVING ITSELF IN ANY WAY IN DETAILS, COULD NOT FIND SOME WAY OF SHOWING MORE POSITIVE AND ACTIVE INTEREST IN SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. END SUMMARY'

2. METAXAS TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR GOG HAD BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED BY ACTIONS OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN LIMASSOL AND CERTAIN OTHER VILLAGES (NICOSIA 42), NOTED UN HAD NOT MOVED INTO SITUATION UNTIL NEXT DAY AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEW GREEK CYPRIOT POLICE HAD REACTED PRUDENTLY. GOG

WAS STILL AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY TURKISH CYPRIOT FORCES HAD MADE THIS MOVE AND WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE OF EASILY EXPLOSIVE ELEMENTS IN SITUATION OF THIS CHARACTER. HE WENT SO FAR AS TO WONDER WHETHER TURKISH CYPRIOTS DID NOT HAVE IN MIND ACTION THAT WOULD CONFRONT GREEK CYPRIOTS WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI IN LIMASSOL AREA IN THEIR OWN VERSION OF SALAMI TACTICS. HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION GOG SAW ELEMENTS OF "VERY DANGEROUS" SITUATION EMERGING SHOULD TURKISH CYPRIOTS REPEAT PERFORMANCE ALONG THESE LINES.

3. TURNING TO INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, METAXAS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LATEST DENKTASH PROPOSALS. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH TURKISH EMBASSY HERE EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE SAID ON OTHER OCCASIONS TURKISH EMBASSY HAD ALWAYS ASSURED GOG THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT POSITION REPRESENTED MAXIMUM EXCEEDING GOT VIEWS BUT WAS BEGINNING TO DOUBT GOG WORD IN THIS REGARD. HE BELIEVED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WERE AT CRITICAL POINT, AND WHILE GOG HAD GIVEN ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISER FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONS AND HAD BEEN HEARTENED BY FACT THAT ALDIKACTI WAS MOVING CYRPUS, LATEST DENKTASH PROPOSALS WERE MOST DISAPPOINTING. HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD U.S. COULD NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN DETAILS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND INDEED SHOULD NOT DO SO UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. AT SAME TIME, HE HOPED THAT WE MIGHT FIND SOME WAY TO REEMPHASIZE OUR POSITIVE AND ACTIVE INTEREST IN SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS BECAUSE THIS MIGHT HELP EFFORTS IN NEGOTIATIONS PROPER TO REDUCE GAP BETWEEN TWO SIDES. GOG, METAXAS EMPHASIZED, WAS CONCERNED TO FIND WAY TO AVOID DEADLOCK IN TALKS AND CONTINUED TO HOPE THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT LATEST TURKISH PROPOSALS CONTAINED SEED OF FUTURE TROUBLES AND GOG FEARED THAT IF SITUATION ONCE GOT OUT OF HAND SUBSTANTIAL LEFTIST ELEMENTS ON ISLAND WOULD EXPLOIT SITUATION AND NEW CRISIS COULD BE PRECIPITATED.

4. POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOOK NOTE OF ABOVE COMMENTS, PROMISED THEY WOULD BE PROMPTLY REPORTED AND REMINDED METAXAS THAT U.S. HAS FOLLOWED CONSISTENT POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.IMPORTANCE WE CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTACHED TO THEIRSUCCESS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED PUBLICLY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN UNSC, AND PRIVATELY WE HAD REPEATEDLY URGED NEED FOR FORTHCOMING POSTURE ON ALL PARTIES.

5. POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOOK OCCASION OF VISIT TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 002416 TO METAXAS. TASCA

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